

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

- 1-53. (Canceled)
54. (New) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means containing a solution of pH 2-4 which comprises at least one component capable of releasing at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) capable of permeating into the adjacent tissue or body cavity and said at least one component releases said LMAC upon acidification.
55. (New) The device of claim 54, wherein the LMAC is released when said at least one component is contacted with a second component.
56. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein said at least one component is inorganic nitrite.
57. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein said second component is ascorbic acid.
58. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein said at least one component is inorganic nitrite and said second component is ascorbic acid.
59. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein said contact is accomplished through the introduction of a liquid to said means and said liquid being selected from the group consisting of water, saline or any physiological buffer.
60. (New) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a catheter for insertion into the urinary tract of said human or animal body and said inflatable and expandable means comprise an inflatable cuff.
61. (New) The device of claim 60, wherein said cuff when inserted into the urinary tract is situated in the urinary bladder.
62. (New) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is an intratracheal tube.
63. (New) The device of claim 54, wherein said device is a gastric tube.

64. (New) The device of claim 54, wherein said LMAC is a reactive nitrogen intermediate, a reactive oxygen intermediate or a combination of these two.
65. (New) The device of claim 54, wherein the LMAC is selected from the group consisting of nitric oxide (NO), NO₂, N₂O₃, N₂O₄, HNO₃, HNO₂, NO⁺, NO⁻, O²⁻, O₃, singlet oxygen, H₂O₂, OONO⁻, HOONO, NOCl, NOSC₃N, NO thiocyanate, an OH radical and HOCl.
66. (New) The device of claim 54, wherein said LMAC is in a gaseous state at body temperature.
67. (New) The device of claim 54, having a concentration of one or more metal ions in the contents of the inflatable and expandable means or in the material or on the surface of said device, said concentration being sufficient to increase the antimicrobial effect.
68. (New) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means, wherein said inflatable and expandable means is impermeable to water and contains inorganic nitrite and an acid.
69. (New) A device of claim 68, wherein said inflatable and expandable means contains sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.
70. (New) A device of claim 68, wherein said device is a catheter.
71. (New) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means containing a solution comprising inorganic nitrite and an acid, wherein said solution produces at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) which has an antimicrobial effect outside of the device.
72. (New) A device of claim 71, wherein said inflatable and expandable means contains sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.
73. (New) A device of claim 71, wherein said device is a catheter.
74. (New) A device of claim 71, wherein said LMAC has an antimicrobial effect on the outer surface of the device.
75. (New) A device of claim 71, wherein said solution is of pH 2-4.

76. (New) A device for insertion in a human or animal body or a body cavity, said device having an inflatable and expandable means, wherein said inflatable and expandable means comprises at least one component capable of releasing at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) capable of permeating into the adjacent tissue or body cavity, and said at least one component releases said LMAC at a concentration of at least about 10000 parts per billion within about 10 minutes of acidification as measured by rapid-response chemiluminescence analysis of the headspace of a closed flask containing said device, wherein said flask is flushed with NO-free air via an inlet at a rate of 4.5 L/min.
77. (New) A device of claim 76, wherein said inflatable and expandable means contains sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.
78. (New) A device of claim 76, wherein said device is a catheter.
79. (New) A method for treating, preventing or alleviating a nosocomial infection in a human or animal having an invasive medical device inserted into the body, comprising inserting an invasive medical device into the body of the human or animal, wherein said invasive medical device has an inflatable and expandable means containing a solution of pH 2-4 which comprises inorganic nitrite and an acid.
80. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the inorganic nitrite is sodium nitrite.
81. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the acid is ascorbic acid.
82. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the nosocomial infection is a bacterial infection.
83. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the nosocomial infection is a viral infection.
84. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the invasive medical device is a catheter.
85. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the invasive medical device is an intratracheal tube.
86. (New) The method of claim 79, wherein the invasive medical device is a gastric tube.

87. (New) A kit comprising an invasive medical device having an inflatable cuff and a syringe suitable for inflating said cuff, said syringe comprising the necessary components for the release of at least one low molecular antimicrobial compound (LMAC) after administration of said components into said inflatable cuff of said device.
88. (New) The kit of claim 87, wherein the device is a urinary catheter.
89. (New) The kit of claim 87, wherein the device is an intratracheal tube.
90. (New) The kit of 87, wherein the device is a gastric tube.
91. (New) The kit of claim 87, wherein said necessary components are present as powders that release said LMAC upon combination with a liquid such as water, saline or any physiological buffer.
92. (New) The kit of claim 87, wherein said necessary components are present as separate solutions that are combined prior to administration or simultaneously with the inflation of said cuff.
93. (New) The kit of claim 87, wherein said necessary components are inorganic nitrite and an acid.
94. (New) The kit of claim 87, wherein said necessary components are sodium nitrite and ascorbic acid.